

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

This material contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Bulgarian Prisons and Labor Camps	DATE DISTR.	30 August 1955
		NO. OF PAGES	7
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	50X1-HUM
DATE ACQUIRED			

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

50X1-HUM

1. The number of prisons in Bulgaria totals 20 or 21, with one in every major town, except for Sofia, Pazardzhik, and Sliven, which have two each.
2. Political prisoners generally are segregated in each prison, but the prisons at Sliven and Kolarovgrad are reserved for political prisoners.
3. One of the Sofia prisons is for adults (Sofiyski Tsentralen Zatvor), while the other, in the suburb of Kazichene, is for juveniles.

Labor Camps

4. The following is a list of Bulgarian labor camps:
  - a. Belene: Two or three thousand of Belene's 10,000 internees are common criminals. The inmates live in wooden huts and, with the exception of the political prisoners, work in the fields.
  - b. Tukhlarna Fabrika: One thousand common criminals are interned at the Tukhlarna Fabrika (Brick Factory), "Ivan Vazov" Kvartal (ward), Sofia. The inmates work in the factory with the other employees.
  - c. Zakharna Fabrika: A similar installation for 600 prisoners is located at the former Zakharna Fabrika (Sugar Factory). The inmates are guarded by elements of the Interior Troops (Vutreshni Voyski).
  - d. Durvenitza: Prior to 1955 there were 1,000 criminals employed in the construction of army barracks in Durvenitza, near Sofia. With the near-completion of the barracks, the number of prisoners dropped to 150.
  - e. Tsentralen (Lager 2) na Sofia: This camp employs 500 to 600 inmates in construction work in the capital. The prisoners are housed in the unfinished structures.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

STATE	Ev	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		NSA/IR		
-------	----	---	------	---	------	---	-----	---	-----	--	-----	--	--------	--	--

(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

- 2 -

- f. Dimitrovgrad: The camp is located in the town of the same name, and has approximately 900 prisoners who work in three shifts in the local coal mines.
  - g. Gurko: Until late 1954, 120 to 130 prisoners were engaged in constructing the 5 or 6-story DS (State Security) building on Gurko Street, Sofia.
  - h. Fifteen or twenty unguarded convicts, all of whom are serving one year maximum sentences, work as mechanics in the ten vehicular repair shops of the DS in Sofia. One of these shops is situated on Serdika Street.
5. According to inmates of the Sofia Central Prison, Bulgarian prisoners and labor camp internees totalled 60,000 in 1954, and the Sofia Central Prison, which had 3,500 inmates, had the greatest concentration of prisoners.

The Sofia Central Prison

- 6. The Central Prison in Sofia, which is located at 21 General Stoletoy Street, occupies a site measuring 600 x 900 meters. The prison compound is surrounded by a fence five meters high. There are three entrances on General Stoletoy Street, the central one for pedestrians and the other two for DS and militia vehicles.
- 7. Beyond the main gate is the 1-story administration building, which houses the governor's office and quarters, offices of the prison administration and three political officers, the prison archives, and the telephone exchange.
- 8. A passageway connects the administration building with the main prison building. In the cellar of this building are the central heating plant, laundry, showers, lavatory, and five punishment cells.
- 9. The main prison building contains three wings. From the ground floor to the ninth floor each wing is uniformly divided into forty-six 1.90 x 2.80-meter cells. The cells on the tenth floor are of various sizes.
- 10. While political prisoners occupy most of the prison, criminals are housed only in the cellar and the right and center wings of the ground floor.
- 11. The prison hospital occupies a 4-story building adjacent to the administration building. A 1-story building which is the women's prison, is attached to the hospital. The hospital, the Central Bulgarian Prison Hospital, has a full complement of departments, with the exception of a ward for eye and nasal diseases. Its psychiatric ward treats minor cases, and severe cases are sent to a special prison hospital for nervous diseases and tuberculosis at Kyustendil. The hospital is staffed by about 35 to 40 professionals, and all of the doctors, numbering 15 to 20, with the exception of the director, are prisoners.
- 12. The prison includes several large workshops. A 3-story building next to the women's prison houses the prison garages on the ground floor, a metal shop (zhelezarska rabotilnitsa) and a mechanized shoemaker's shop. An additional shoe shop without machinery is located on the first floor, while a saddler's shop is on the second and third floors. There are two tailor shops near the left wing of the prison.
- 13. In addition to the workshops, the prison compound includes:
  - a. A 3-story bakery, equipped with five Skoda ovens, which supplies bread not only to the prison, but also to Sofia.
  - b. An underground food storage room.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

- 3 -

14. In early 1955, about 2,000 of the prisoners were employed as follows:

- a. Tailor shop - 600, working in three shifts.
- b. Carpentry shop - 700.
- c. Shoemakers shop - 300.
- d. Garage - 40.
- e. Bakery - 300, working in three shifts.

A total of 1,500 criminal convicts did not work at all because they were considered dangerous or were awaiting trial or execution. Since 1948, political prisoners have not been allowed to work. In January 1955, fifteen prisoners, housed in the right wing ground floor, were awaiting execution.

16. Since 1951 prisoners have not been permitted to participate in the administration of the prison. The prison administration consists of:

- a. Warden (Nachalnik Zatlora);
- b. Chief of the Administration (Nachalnik po Rezhima), the warden's deputy;
- c. Chief of Economic Matters (Nachalnik po Stopanska Chast).
- d. Chief of Political Matters (Nachalnik Politicheska Chast).

17. Seventy guards, directed by nine sergeants, oversee the sentenced prisoners under investigation.

18. The prison is guarded by the Special Militia (Spetsialna Militsia), who wear Interior Troop uniforms. Six or seven hundred of these troops are stationed behind the central prison in a 3-story barracks. They guard DS buildings, various ministries, and other important institutions. About 25 of them have duty at the prison. Four are posted on the watchtowers during the day, while two sentries patrol the length of the wall and the area between the prison and the DS offices at night.

19. Reveille for the prisoners is at 6:00 a.m. Prisoners are left to themselves until 10:00 a.m., when they take their first walk, until 11:00 a.m., in pairs behind the main building. From 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., the prisoners are confined to their cells, and from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. they take their second walk. Roll call is at 6:00 p.m.

20. Lunch is served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and usually consists of cabbage or beans and 30 grams of black bread. Supper generally consists of fruit soup, served from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. Working prisoners fare better and usually receive tea, jam, and bread for breakfast.

21. Working inmates are permitted to spend their free time in the workshop's yard until roll call. These prisoners receive about 30 percent less wages than those engaged in similar trades outside of the prison.

22. Criminal convicts sleep on double-decker bunks, with 12 to 13 men to a bunk. As the upper bunk almost reaches the ceiling, many prefer the floor.

23. A criminal may receive any amount of money from the outside, and the frequency of food parcels varies with the length of sentence: a five-kilo-gram parcel may be received twice a month for a three-year sentence, once a month for a three to five year sentence, once every two months for five to ten years, and once every three months for ten to 15 years. Non-working prisoners may receive parcels even less frequently.

24. Permission to write and receive letters and to receive visits also varies according to the length of the sentence. Criminal prisoners under investigation are denied these privileges, but are allowed to receive money from the outside and make purchases in the two prison shops.

25. Working prisoners are issued brown and white striped shirts and a pair of trousers, but no shoes. Most inmates wear wooden clogs smuggled out of the carpentry shop. Non-working prisoners and those under investigation must wear their own clothes.

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

- 4 -

26. Since 1949 the number of political prisoners has decreased, while the number of criminal prisoners has increased.

DS Installations and Headquarters

27. In the Central Prison, the DS occupies a separate building of two wings. In the basement there are 200 small cells for political prisoners. While the second and third floors contain office space, the laundry, central heating plant, mess hall, tailor shop and baths are on the first floor. An enclosed passageway connects the DS building with the main prison building.
28. While interrogation rooms and offices occupy part of the DS building at 27 Gurko Street, 300 cells are located on the top floor and in the basement. Approximately 25 of the basement cells measure 50 x 70 cm. (sic) while the remaining cells are larger. All of them have iron doors with small round openings. There is only one lavatory in the basement. The DS building is connected with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which is across the street, by an underground passageway.
29. The DS also uses a building at 12 Evlogiy Georgiev Street for interrogations. The building reportedly contains 100 cells, in addition to interrogation-rooms and offices.
30. The following personalities are known at Sofia Central Prison:
- a. Captain Slavche Chilichev is the first political officer. He is about 29 years old, and is a Communist.
  - b. Captain Chelakov (fnu), aged 43-44, is the second political officer. He has been married three times.
  - c. Gurinov (fnu), aged 26-27, is the director of the prison archives. Gurinov is a Communist who carries the rank of captain.
  - d. Major Kolev (fnu), the third political officer, is 54 years old.
  - e. Mikhaylov (fnu) is in charge of prison discipline. He is a 40-year-old, Communist with the rank of major. He is married and has two children.
  - f. Georgi Moskov, formerly the prison's political officer, has been the warden of the Sofia Central Prison since 1949. Aged about 29, Moskov is a veteran Communist who was a major in the police force.
  - g. Mikhail Rakev, who has served in the police force since 1947 with the rank of captain, is the Chief of Economic Matters. He is about 26-27 years old, and apparently is a Communist. He is married, has two children, and resides at 4 Demir Kapia Street, Nadzhda, Sofia Obshtina.
31. The following is the legend to the Diagram of the Central Prison of Sofia which appears as an appendix on pages 6 and 7.
- 1 - General Stolev Street.
  - 2 - Guard
  - 3 - Main Gate
  - 4 - Gate for DS vehicles
  - 5 - Gate for militia vehicles.
  - 6 - Guard
  - 7 - Prison administration building
  - 8 - Guards' barracks
  - 9 - Hospital
  - 10 - Women's prison
  - 11 - Workshops
  - 12 - Bakery

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

- 5 -

- 13 - Underground storage room
- 14 - Main prison building
- 15 and 16 - Carpentry Shops
- 17 and 18 - Shops
- 19 - Pig Sty
- 20 - Yard for prisoners' walk
- 21 and 22 - Tailor shops
- 23 - DS building
- 24 - Enclosed passage
- 25 - Tailor shop
- 26 - Central heating plant
- 27 - Bath
- 28 - Lavatory
- 29 - Punishment cells
- 30 - Showers
- 31 thru 34 - Watch towers
- 35 - Enclosed passage
- 36 - Wall
- 37 - Gate
- 38 - Bakery storage room

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

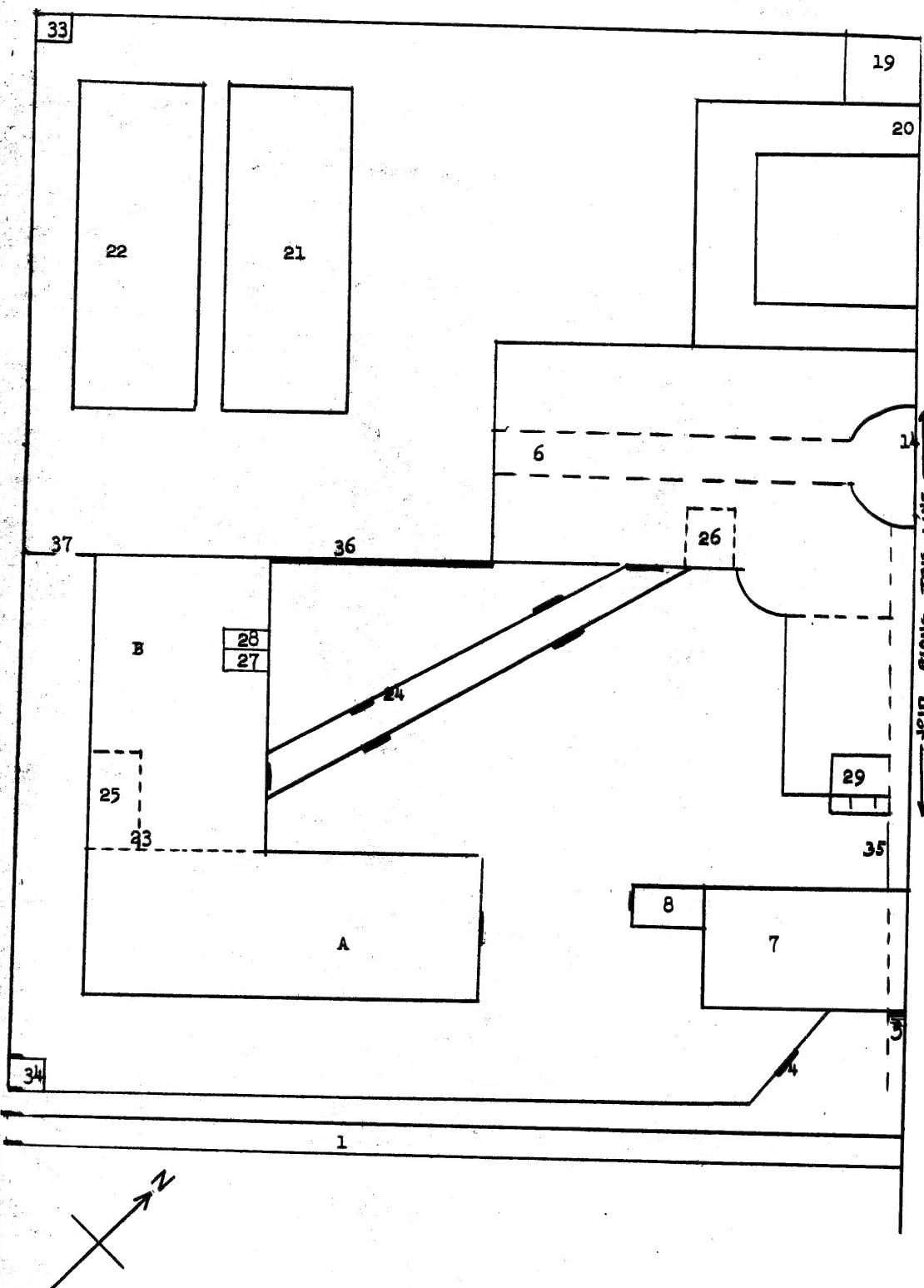
50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

APPENDIX

- 6 -



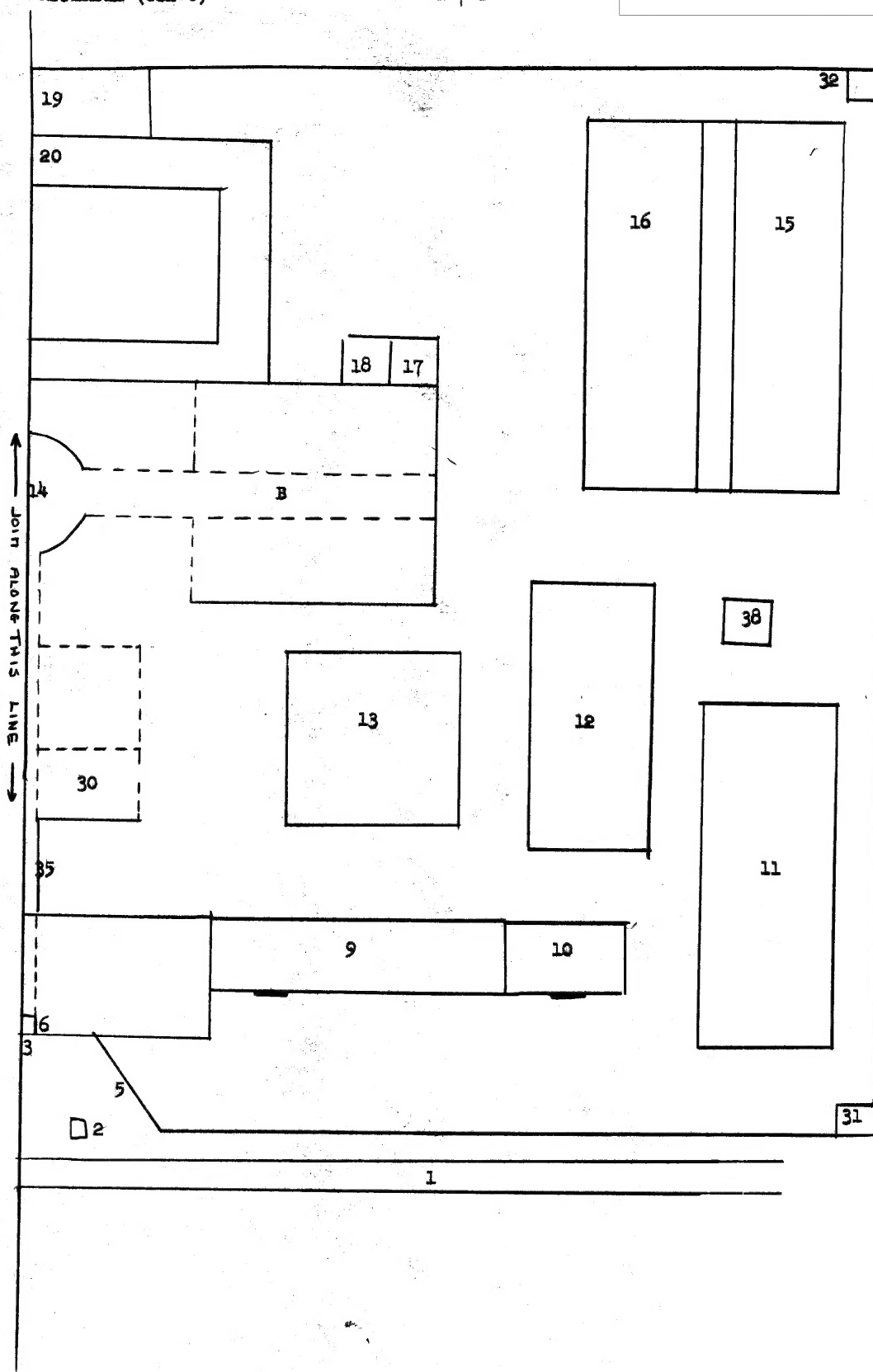
S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM

S-E-C-R-E-T

APPENDIX (con't)

- 7 -



S-E-C-R-E-T

50X1-HUM